Public sector units in Jammu and Kashmir

666. SHRI GHULAM RASOOLKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small number of public sector units are functioning in Jammu and Kashmir which is a backward State in the industrial field; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up more public sector units there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The central public sector units are not set up solely on State-wise basis. The location is decided taking into account various techno-economic factors including availability of raw materials and other infrastructural facilities.

Appointment of High Court Judges in J & K

667. SHRI GHULAM RASOOLKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu and Kashmir Government have recommended four persons for appointment as High Court Judges in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard on the recommendations of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court is 5 permanent Judges and 2 Additional Judges. At present, 4 permanent Judges and 2 Additional Judges are in position, leaving one vacancy of a permanent Judge.

Certain proposals for appointments to the High Court have been received from the State authorities, and these are engaging the attention of the Government.

Improving of the Telephone System

668. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to improve the telephone system in the country;

(b) whether it is proposed to switch over to cellular system or fibre optics equipment;

(c) whether there is a proposal to use cables with metal covering; and

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what is the difficulty in adopting high technology to improve the functioning of telephone system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The steps taken to improve the telephone system in the country are given in the Annex.

(b) Fibre optics equipment is being inducted into the system in the local junction as well as long-distance network during the 7th Plan Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone System might be introduced in some metro networks depending upon the availability of resources.

(c) the cables being used in the Department are already having mechanical protection by way of steel tape armour.